GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:783
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
CONSUMER EDUCATION
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the study conducted by Voluntary Organizations in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) according to which top brands pass off sub-standard soaps to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Voluntary Organization in Interest of ConsumerEducation (VOICE)in its study have, inter-alia commented on 12 brands of toilet soaps with regard to ingredients, weight, Total Fat Contents and lather they generate apparently with a view to enlighten the consumers.

(c) : Soaps are not covered under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards. Therefore, manufacturers of soaps are not required to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacturing soapswhich could ensure their conformity to the quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Beside, none of the brands tested by VOICE are ISI marked.